

# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

March 2020

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## Sunday Nights in March

*1st - Movie Night*

*"The Case for Christ"*

*8th - Ministerial Choir Festival*

*15th - Rick Roper & The Praise Team*

*22nd - Chris Bankston, Mike Helton,*

*Pat Holland, Janette Scarborough*

*& Jim Combs*

*29th - Amen Choir Concert @*

*Summerville Baptist*



*Welcome Home.*



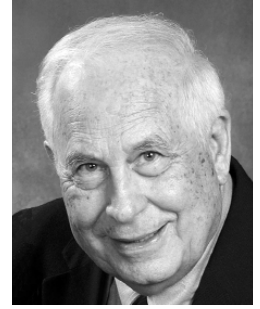
# A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR

**March is a magical month for me for all kinds of reasons but mostly because my birthday is March 10th.** This year is even better than most as this March 10th I will turn 60 and March 10th will be exactly 7 years since I preached my 1st time here at Lakewood. March 10th, 2013 at the beginning of the joint revival services with Lakewood and Central Baptist Church. I can remember not knowing who was who as we would meet here one day and at Central the next. It seems impossible that it could have been so long ago as it passed so quickly. As I look back I remember Katie going through her battle with cancer and I remember the building project and all it took to get the family activity center done in time for a Christmas in July wedding for Elizabeth. Then came that sleepless night in the hospital waiting for the arrival of our first grandchild. It is always amazing to look back over long periods of time to realize how little we actually recall of it all. It is those special moments that become mile markers by which we can measure the times of our lives. Some are sweet and others painful but all tell the story of God's grace and love for us. This March is going to be another major mile marker in my life as I have plans to take full advantage of God's release in my personal life and in my ministry. If you're not familiar with the term it is found in Deuteronomy 15 as God calls on us at the end of every seven years to release all debts and regrets. Not only does God call on us to release all that we might hold against our brother but that we should bless them with gifts so that they will not go away empty handed from their forgiveness with blessings in hand as well. I have been preaching messages leading up to this that are all about getting past our past and all of our regrets as well as the need for forgiveness. Unity is the goal and the aim of everything I do here at Lakewood and this event will be no different. I plan to start fresh like I just arrived here as your new Pastor. I plan to preach through Experiencing God beginning March 15th and ending in June, so watch for stuffers and posters showing my messages and on which dates I will be covering each unit so you can follow along in your own workbooks. If you don't have a book they can be bought from Amazon or Lifeway and I would encourage you to work through it with me. I always start every new ministry with this study because once we understand how to hear God speak and see Him at work around us we can then all agree to join him and that brings unity. This Biblically based approach to ministry puts God in charge and we just agree to agree to follow Him. Once you understand my goals then I hope and pray you will understand my reasoning for every activity and it's real purpose of building and maintaining unity. If I follow Jesus and you follow Jesus and all the other members follow Jesus we will look up and suddenly realize that we are all walking in step and pulling in the same direction. You see it is only when we follow men that we go in circles as there are as many ideas as there are people and not all can be right and with men perhaps none are right. So I want to encourage you to not follow me but instead you follow Jesus and I will help you to see where Jesus is and what He is doing so we can go join Him in advancing the Kingdom.

March really is a magical month for me and this year I hope to make it a March I remember several years from now because of what God did at Lakewood in March way back in 2020. That sounds funny but soon and very soon it will be true. If the next seven years pass as quickly as these past seven I had better get started because it will be here before I know it. I sure hope and pray you're dreaming of seven years from now with the same enthusiasm and expectation as I am. If you're not just get yourself a copy of Experiencing God and work through it with me starting in March and I promise before we are through that will all change. Just ask Saul, or Moses, or Jeremiah, or any of the other great saints of the Bible how their lives changed when they had an Experience with God.

# A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

**Among other things that happen in March, such as the beginning of spring and basketball's March Madness, Daylight Saving Time begins, this year on Mach 8.** How can you save time? Time is a strange commodity. You can't save it. You can't borrow it. You can't loan it. You can't leave it. You can't take it. You can't give it. All you can do is use it or lose it. Time can't be stopped. You can call time out in a ball game, but you can't call time out in life. Time can't be stored. You can put money in the bank, but you can't put time in the bank. Time can't be stretched. You can add water to the soup, but there is no way you can expand time.

Ephesians 5:16 tells us to redeem the time. In the Bible there are two words that are translated "time." One is *chronos*, from which we get our word *chronology*. It speaks of the passing of time, like so many hours, so many minutes, and so many seconds. The other word, which is the one used in Ephesians 5:16, is *chairoi*, which means seasons of time, or opportunities. It's the same word that's used in Galatians 6:10, which tells us to do good to others as we have opportunity. So God wants us to think of time not only in the sense of days, hours, and minutes, but to see it as an incredible opportunity.

Paul is telling us that the days are evil, so we need to take advantage of every opportunity that God has given us. What do you do when you redeem something? You pay for it. There is something you must give in exchange if you would live up to the opportunities that God has given you. You need to see how valuable time is. To waste time is to waste life, because time is the stuff that life is made out of. The art of living is spending time wisely. Psalm 90:12 says, "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

Sometimes people say they don't have as much time as other people, but that isn't true. We all have the same amount of time, 24 hours in the day. The difference between people is not that some have more time than others. The difference is how people use the time that God has given them. Time is a present opportunity. Yesterday is just a canceled check. Tomorrow is just a promissory note. Today is all the cash that you have. Learn to spend it wisely. More than 1500 years ago, a wise man wrote these words: "Look well to this one day, for it and it alone is life. Yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a vision, but today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope."

Psalm 118:24 says, "This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it." There are two days that can steal the joy and the productivity from today. One is yesterday and the other is tomorrow. The Bible warns us about both. Concerning yesterday, we need to have the same attitude as Paul, expressed in Philippians 3:13-14. Don't be haunted by the ghost of past guilt; don't rest on the laurels of past glory; don't carry along the grief of past sorrows; don't harbor past grudges.

Some people are always waiting for tomorrow, looking forward to what's going to happen. But the problem is that tomorrow never comes, and they fail to appreciate and use today. Many people are worrying about tomorrow, despite what Jesus teaches about worry in Matthew 6:34. When you worry, you reach out into tomorrow and bring tomorrow's difficulty into day, with the result that you overload today. Worry doesn't take the sorrow out of tomorrow; it takes the strength out of today, and when you fight tomorrow's battles today, you meet tomorrow in weakness. Someone said, "Worry pulls tomorrow's clouds over today's sunshine." God gives us sufficient grace for today. Deuteronomy 33:25 says, "As your days are, so shall your strength be."

Cut yourself loose from the heartaches and failures of yesterday. Bury past sins in the grave of God's forgetfulness. Tomorrow is a time nowhere but on the fool's calendar. Stop saying, "If I had the time." There is enough time in every day to do everything that God wants you to do, and He provides everything necessary for you to do it. It's an insult to God to say you don't have enough time. If you don't have enough time, you're doing something God did not intend for you to do, something that you have imposed upon yourself or something that you have allowed others to impose upon you.

Inscribed on the clock case in England's Chester Cathedral are these words: "When as a child I laughed and wept, time crept. When as a youth I dreamed and talked, time walked. When I became a full grown man, time ran. When older still I daily grew, time flew. Soon I shall find in traveling on, time is gone." Redeem the time, for it's a passing opportunity.





# A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

**Recently, I've gotten into the habit of streaming old Billy Graham sermons on YouTube, mainly from the 60's and 70's.** It has always been awesome to watch the old footage from one of his crusades where thousands upon thousands of people would fill a baseball or football stadium to hear the Gospel message. Then watch as thousands stream to the altar in repentance and belief at the end. As I've listened to Graham's messages, there's been one thing that sticks out to me. Often he is preaching and lamenting about many of the same cultural topics that are still very much relevant today, even though he was preaching 40, 50, and even 60 years ago. This has reminded me that there's nothing new under the sun (Eccles. 1:9), what has been, has been before, and will be again. As I've listened to Graham's sermons another key theme becomes apparent; he cannot believe that the church (of his day) has remained silent and disengaged while culture has sent a very clear anti-God message. As a student of history I know much of what has become law in our nation today, and much of what we battle against today as the Church, began during Graham's ministry timeline. He witnessed schools ban prayer, he saw abortion become legal, he watched as American homes deteriorated, and the attacks on marriage and the family began. I also remember when I was growing up, the immense respect people had for Graham, obviously within the church, but also without. I remember people calling him 'America's pastor' and watching him administer the oath of office to new U.S. Presidents. Then, I listened to an interview with him which asked what the secret of his 'success' in ministry had been, why did people flock to his crusades? The answer seemed basic and obvious; he said there was no secret at all, it was just prayer. Leading up to one of his crusades the Graham organization would entreat thousands and thousands of believers to pray for that event, before it ever happened. He went on to describe the expectation that everyone involved with that crusade should and would seek personal holiness, not in some legalistic way, but through prayer, conviction, and repentance. Furthermore, they would pray that the Spirit would move in power from the moment people stepped in the area through song, through testimony, and in the teaching and preaching of the Word of God. Simply put, their prayers were not just empty vain words offered up without expectation, it was communication between God and man, and they believed God would move on the hearts of people once there. Low and behold, that's exactly what happened, people would enter that stadium and know the presence of God was there. Today, many bemoan large scale crusades like that, saying there is no way to know if the thousands who came to the altar truly repented and believed, or were simply swayed by emotion. While that may be true, the results really aren't up to us are they? We are to faithfully teach and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and then the Holy Spirit does the work of conversion. I think we can all agree that prayer is an absolutely essential, and often neglected, area of a believer's walk with the Lord. Examine your prayer life. Are your prayers vain repetition? Have they become selfish/self-centered? Do you pray for the lost? Do you ask God to use you to reach them with the Gospel message? Or, do you simply complain about the state of the country/world? None of us are likely to have thousands upon thousands of people fill a stadium to hear us preach, none of us will have the platform Graham did, but we can begin by reaching just one. Pray and ask God to open a door, to give you a divine appointment with someone who desperately needs Jesus as Savior and Lord, then don't be surprised when God answers that prayer. I am totally convinced on this side of heaven that there is no greater joy, no higher calling for a believer, than to be used by God to affect someone's eternal destination. God chose you and I to be His representatives, His ambassadors, He is making His appeal through us. What a high calling we enjoy. Remember, He saved you for His glory, will you be used by Him today?  
God Bless,  
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# A Message from David Stephens

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CHILDREN'S MINISTER



I wanted to talk about a passage of scripture that has turned into what I call a 'Life Verse'. A life verse would be a portion of scripture that you keep coming back to that continues to encourage and challenge you in your Christian walk. "He has shown you Oh man what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to Do Justice, to Love mercy, and to Walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

Seven hundred years before Jesus walked on this earth there was a prophet called Micah. He wrote down words given to him by God, words that tell us what God expects from his people. This verse without a lot of words tells us what is required of us as Christ followers. So, what does this mean? We understand that God Loves us so much that he sent his son to die for us, so that we can have eternal life with him. For the Christian this sacrifice should fill us all with a sense of gratitude that awakens a spirit of service to His purposes in our lives. After we have been adopted into the family of God and we call Jesus, Lord of our life, we must begin to act in a way that is holy and pleasing to our Heavenly Father. It is only natural that we would ask; What is required of me? Micah gives us our answer.

As we live out our faith walk we must "act justly" by doing what is right. 'Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God. (1 John 3:10) But, what does this look like? This means we must live with integrity, we must 'love your neighbor as yourself' (Mark 12:31). Acting justly is helping our neighbors who are in need; it is helping the widows, orphans and the poor among us. It is actively serving or supporting missionaries. It is doing the 'right thing' when it may be hard and you could be persecuted.

God requires that we "love mercy" we do this by showing compassion and forgiveness for others "judgement without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful" (James 2:13). We must have a heart of compassion for the hurting among us. We must be able to be vulnerable and open with our struggles. We must be able to open ourselves up and allow others through the walls we create around ourselves out of fear. We cannot show genuine compassion when we are closed off. We must live with constant thankfulness for God's mercy towards us. As we understand God's mercy especially in his forgiveness of our sin we must show mercy to others. Ultimately, without God's mercy we all would be lost.

The final requirement is for us to "walk humbly" with our God. This is, SO not popular in our culture today. The word humble basically means to place a low value on 'self'. Our 'Me first' generation is wrapped up in individualism. We are prideful and confident in our 'Awesomeness' seeking rewards and recognition for our great achievements. We are trained this way; to achieve, to acquire, to rise higher than before. But, God calls us to submit to his authority and walk with him. He is 'large and in charge' not us. True humility is required for worship. We did nothing to deserve eternal life. We are given value and made worthy. All we have has been given to us by God. 'Walking humbly with our God' is knowing God in relationship allowing him to guide our thoughts and actions. It is living in community with other 'brothers' and 'sisters'.

This is my 'Life Verse'. Lesley and I did name our first son Micah because of this verse. My challenge to all who may read this is to seriously pray about what passage of scripture has worked its way deep into you like this has for me.

\*\*\*\*\*See Kid's Ministry Updates under the "In Memory" page\*\*\*\*\*

## In Memory of:

Esther Benton for Builders for Christ from Billy and Cathy Greene

Carolyn Pruski:

For Challenge to Build from Pat Holland  
For Challenge to Build from Sherry Scroggins  
For Challenge to Build from Brenda Evans  
For Budget from Fran Loftin  
For Homebound from Jimmy & Susan Graham  
For Circles of Influence from Joyful Servants

Bill Benton:

For Homebound from Sherry Scroggins  
For Budget from Fran Loftin

Howard Underwood:

For Challenge to Build from Sherry Scroggins  
For Budget from Railroad Retirees

Wilbur Kilcrease for Homebound Ministry from Jimmy & Susan Graham

Maxine and Bennie Cole for Homebound Ministry from Jimmy & Susan Graham

Buddy Helton for Food Bank from Terry & Clara Grimes

## \*\*\*\*\* Kids Ministry Update \*\*\*\*\*

We had a very good start to Date Night PC, on Valentines weekend. God showed up Big Time with our clean out the closet weekend. We now have a real space to work out of and store gear. Hurrah!! We are getting VBS underway. We have also begun a transformation of our 5th and 6th grade Sunday School and fellowship environments. There is much more to come regarding this space, which all of our kids are super excited about.

Let's promote Summer Camp and fill that bus with campers for Merge.  
Come join our team. Reach out to me with questions or to just chat.

Merge Summer Camp July 13 - 16  
3rd - 6th grade Students  
Shocco Springs Conference Center  
Tuition \$199  
Deposit \$50 Due February 24

VBS  
20/20 Vision Seeing Clearly Through Christ  
Habakkuk 2: 2-4  
May 31 - June 4 (5:30PM - 8:30PM)

Date Night PC  
Saturday April 18  
5:30PM - 8:30PM

# Lakewood Happenings

## March 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
6:00pm Movie Night The Case for Christ 1	10:30am Amen Choir 2	10:00am Ladies Bible Study 1:30pm Building & Grounds team meeting 3	10:00am VK/WMU 4	5	6	11:00am HHMinistry FTH 7
<b>Time Change</b> 5:00pm Deacons Meet 6:00pm Ministerial Choir Festival 8	10:30am Amen Choir 9	10:00am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 10	11	12	5:30pm Game Night 13	8:00am Men's Work Day 14
6:00pm Rick Roper & The Praise Team 15	10:30am Amen Choir 16	10:00am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 17	7:00pm Finance Meeting 18	19	20	21
6:00pm Chris, Mike, Pat, Janette & Jim 22	23	10:00am Ladies Bible Study 10:30am Amen Ch. 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 24	7:00pm CDC Meeting 25	7:00pm JEG/BW F/H 26	7:00pm Youth & Young Adult Game Night 27	11:00am Y&YA FTH 28
6:00pm Amen Choir Concert @ S'Ville 29	10:30am Amen Choir 30	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 31				

## January Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
1/5	\$20,669.48	\$395.00	\$2,019.99	\$574.35	\$23,658.82
1/12	\$21,035.95	\$700.00	\$11,366.11	\$4,794.83	\$37,896.89
1/19	\$14,002.15	\$445.00	\$2,680.74	\$1,084.83	\$18,212.72
1/26	\$26,990.91	\$185.00	\$6,045.48	\$3,845.00	\$37,066.39

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

#### SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 9:00am Kidz Worship
- 10:00am Bible Fellowship
- 11:00am Blended Worship
- 11:15am Kidz Worship
- 6:00pm Evening Worship
- 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study/FAC

#### WEDNESDAY

- 5:00pm Family Night Supper
- 5:45pm AWANA/FLYTE
- 6:00pm Orchestra Rehearsal
- Adult Prayer & Bible Study
- 6:30pm Youth Worship
- 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal

Only \$5 per adult meal,  
\$2.50 per child meal with a maximum  
\$15 per family!

# Let's Eat!

Dinner is  
served from  
5:00-6:00pm

## MARCH WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

### 3/4

PORK LOIN  
MASHED  
POTATOES  
PEAS, ROLLS  
SALAD  
DESSERT

### 3/11

HAMBURGER  
STEAK  
RICE,  
STEAMED  
BROCCOLI  
ROLLS  
SALAD & DESSERT

### 3/18

FRIED CHICKEN  
MASHED  
POTATOES,  
CORN ON THE  
COB  
ROLLS, SALAD  
& DESSERT

### 3/25

TACO SALAD &  
DESSERT

To make dinner reservations, email Carol at [carol@lbcpc.org](mailto:carol@lbcpc.org) or call 334.298.6433.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**RICKY & BECKY  
SMITH**  
&  
**FLOYD TEASLEY**

**March Greeters**  
Glenda Medley  
Sheila Barbaree



We are moving our online giving  
provider from Vanco to  
Shelbynext  
For more info go to [LBCPC.org](http://LBCPC.org)  
Click on the rotator about  
online giving

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